

CLAIMS:

1. A towed body comprising:-
 - a body portion;
 - a support member mounted on the body portion, the support member being movable with respect to the body portion in a generally rearward direction along a section thereof;
 - a plurality of forward opening blades pivotally mounted on the support member and lying adjacent the body portion in a stowed position, the blades defining a drag cone when in a fully deployed position; and
 - a deployment mechanism associated with the support member for causing movement in the generally rearward direction, the deployment mechanism including ramp means for deploying the blades and locking means for locking the blades in the fully deployed position.
2. A towed body according to claim 1, wherein the deployment mechanism includes surface means associated with the support member for effecting movement in the generally rearward direction.
3. A towed body according to claim 2, wherein the surface means is mounted on the support member.
4. A towed body according to claim 2, wherein the surface means abuts the support member.
5. A towed body according to claim 4, wherein the surface means comprises a hub member releasably mounted on the body portion.
6. A towed body according to claim 5, wherein the hub member comprises at least two interlocking hub portions.
7. A towed body according to claim 6, wherein each hub portion includes at least two moveable sections, each section being extendable in a generally radial direction away from the body portion.

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8. A towed body according to claim 6 or 7, wherein each hub portion has a front face, the front face including a plurality of recesses formed therein.
9. A towed body according to any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein the surface means comprises a plurality of rear opening blades, the rear opening blades lying in a stowed position along the body portion and opening to form a generally disc-shaped surface in their deployed position.
10. A towed body according to claim 9, wherein the rear opening blades fold rearwards from their deployed position when the forward opening blades are fully deployed.
11. A towed body according to claim 9, wherein the rear opening blades are jettisoned from their deployed position when the forward opening blades are fully deployed.
12. A towed body according to claim 9, wherein the rear opening blades remain in their deployed position when the forward opening blades are fully deployed.
13. A towed body according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the rear opening blades are substantially shorter than the forward opening blades.
14. A towed body according to any one of claims 4 to 8 and claim 9 when dependent on any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the deployment mechanism further includes guide means for guiding the movement of the support member in the generally rearward direction.
15. A towed body according to claim 14, wherein the guide means includes at least two slots formed in the body portion and pins attached to the hub member, the pins sliding in the slots along the body portion.
16. A towed body according to claim 15, wherein the slots include run-outs at a rearward end thereof for effecting release of the hub member.

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17. A towed body according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the locking means comprises a snap ring mounted in the support member, the snap ring engaging with a groove formed in the body portion.
- 5 18. A towed body according to claim 17 when dependent on claim 16, wherein the groove is formed adjacent the run-out.
- 10 19. A towed body according to claim 18, wherein the relative positions of the groove and the ramp means and of the locking means and the pivotal mounting for the blades on the support member together define the diameter of the drag cone formed by the fully deployed forward opening blades.